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WA mezzo-soprano Ashlyn Tymms and baritone Lachlann Lawton scoop Opera Awards (Australia) 2025



David Cusworth | The West Australian
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📷 Mezzo-soprano Ashlyn Tymms played the title role in WA Opera's 2023 Carmen performed at the WACA Ground. Credit: Daniel Wilkins/The West Australian



Perth's own Carmen and the man who saved Elijah have scooped the Opera Awards (Australia) 2025 in a ringing endorsement of WA talent.



Mezzo-soprano Ashlyn Tymms, Bizet's femme fatale Carmen at the WACA Ground for the 2023 Perth Festival, was named overall winner with the \$30,000 Youth Music Foundation Australia award.

And baritone Lachlann Lawton, whose last-minute elevation to the lead as Mendelssohn's Elijah at UWA Winthrop Hall in 2021 propelled him to fame, took the Armstrong-Martin Scholarship (\$5000) and the Glyndebourne Festival Prize.

The latter allows the winner to attend staged rehearsals and audition for the prestigious Glyndebourne Festival in England.

The pair co-starred in WA Opera's *Dido and Aeneas* at Government House Ballroom last year, and represent a cohort of young talent who faced challenges during COVID lockdowns and travel restrictions, yet overcame them in style.



Mezzo-soprano Ashlyn Tymms as Carmen at the WACA Ground in 2023. Credit: Daniel Wilkins/The West Australian

Carmen was delayed a year by the pandemic yet Tymms has gone on to lead roles with WA Opera, WA Symphony Orchestra and numerous interstate institutions, including her Opera Australia mainstage debut this year.

She will use the award to travel overseas, training and seeking work in Europe.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and deeply grateful to receive the 2025 Opera Awards YMFA Prize," she said.

"Australia has given me so many opportunities to grow as an artist, and this award now opens the door for me to take the next exciting step in Europe.

"I can't wait to see how this opportunity shapes the next chapter of my artistry and fuels my ongoing passion for singing and live performance."



 Ashlyn Tymms. Credit: Supplied

Lawton, a crisp and assured presence in prominent roles at WA Opera and interstate, combines singing with a parallel career in personal fitness training, including regimes tailored for vocalists.

The awards were determined through auditions at the Melbourne Recital Centre, administered by Music and Opera Singers Trust (MOST) and adjudicated by Dr Di Bresciani, soprano Rosamund Illing, baritone Simon Meadows and musicologist Peter Tregear.

Contestants must have performed at least two principal roles with a recognised professional opera company to qualify.



 Lachlann Lawton. Credit: Supplied

MOST chief executive Roland Gridiger said the organisation existed to champion artists throughout their careers.

“Ashlyn exemplifies the excellence we strive to support,” Gridiger said.

“With her world-class voice and remarkable stage presence, she is a performer of international calibre. We look forward with excitement to the doors this award will open for her.”